**83758ACPK**
**Customer No. 01333**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Douglas R. Robello, et al

EXFOLIATED POLYSTYRENE-CLAY NANOCOMPOSITE COMPRISING STAR-SHAPED POLYMER

Serial No. To be assigned

This is a divisional of USSN 10/155,256 filed 24 May 2002

Filed Herewith

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: Unknown

Express Mail Label No. EV293527733US

October 3, 2003
Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the claims as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.